



PUBLIC WORKS
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Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
AUG 15 2005

August 11, 2005

Charlene Witczak
WA Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: **NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit – Comments and Concerns**

Dear Ms. Witczak:

This letter has been prepared in response to your request for comments on the First Preliminary Draft of the Proposed Municipal Stormwater NPDES General Permit for Western Washington Phase II Small Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems. The City of Marysville understands that as an owner and operator of a regulated small municipal separate storm sewer system we are required under the Clean Water Act to obtain this Permit. The City of Marysville has been working diligently to prepare for the issuance of the Permit, but is skeptical about the requirements and specific deadlines outlined in it. We have read the current letters written to Ecology by the Association of Washington Cities and we share in their concerns. We have attempted to detail our individual concerns below:

TMDLs: The City of Marysville has acquired previous water quality monitoring data within the Quilceda/Allen Watershed. The sampled fecal coliform levels did not meet state water quality standards and Quilceda and Allen Creek were put on Ecology's 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. Marysville's proactive approach places the City in Appendix 3 – TMDL Requirements. The TMDL Requirement is above and beyond the specified monitoring requirements also listed in the Permit. It would seem reasonable to dedicate some of the allotted funding to the jurisdictions specified in Appendix 3.

Commercial animal handling areas and commercial composting facilities are baseline requirements targeted in Appendix 3. Many of the cities/counties may only have a small number of these land uses within their jurisdiction, and it seems unreasonable

to design a program around these requirements. It may be more beneficial to only require cities/counties to address these land uses if they have more than a specified number within their jurisdictional boundary. It would be beneficial to create a section in Appendix 3 that focuses on the benefits of a jurisdiction reducing their listed parameter in order to be removed from TMDL Requirements.

Monitoring: The monitoring requirements in the permit may dictate a full time employee. I am thankful that Ecology seems to recognize this hurdle and has allowed four years to develop the program. It would be beneficial if Ecology could provide an example of a monitoring plan and outline the parameters that are required to be monitored under the plan. Ecology needs to understand that not all jurisdictions will be able to meet this deadline.

Stormwater Management Program: The five minimum measures spelled out in the Permit are very elaborate, time consuming and costly. I believe the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination element is unreasonable, and may again, take a separate full time employee to carry out the tasks as outlined. It would seem appropriate to possibly require less of certain jurisdictions as their size and funding may not allow for the full implementation of a program of this magnitude. It would be beneficial if Ecology would provide the training required under this element as group training for multiple jurisdictions.

The City of Marysville understands that the Department of Ecology is required to issue this permit and recognizes the time and research that went into developing it. We hope that the Permit reflects the requirements as federally mandated, without including additional costly elements. We also hope that Ecology has taken into account the costs the Permit will inflict upon the individual jurisdictions.

Thank you for your time. Please contact me at 360.363.8277 if you would like to discuss any of our concerns.

Sincerely,



Kari Chennault
Program Engineer – Surface Water

Cc: Paul Roberts, Public Works Director
Kevin Nielsen, City Engineer
NPDES File